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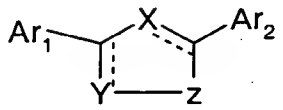
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



I

wherein

---- represents a double or single bond;

X, Y, and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of: N; O; S; and CR_1 and at least one of X, Y, and Z is a heteroatom;

wherein

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of: H; alkyl; $-CF_3$; $-OR_2$; $-SR_2$; $-NR_2R_3$; $=O$; $=S$; $=NR_2$; and $=CR_2R_3$; and

wherein

R_2 and R_3 may be independently selected from the group consisting of: H; alkyl; haloalkyl; alkyloxy; alkylamine; cycloalkyl; heterocycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; alkylaryl; alkylheteroaryl; haloaryl; alkyloxyaryl; alkenylaryl; alkenyloxyaryl; and haloheteroaryl; and

Ar_1 and Ar_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of: aryl and heteroaryl and at least one of Ar_1 and Ar_2 is substituted with at least one substituent G;

wherein

G is selected from the group consisting of: haloalkyl; heteroaryl; cycloalkene; alkenyl; alkynyl; A-alkenyl; A-alkynyl; alkyloxy; A-alkyloxy; $-R_2OR_3$; $-R_2OC(O)R_3$; $(CH_2)_m-NR_2R_3$; $-OCH_2CH(Cl)CH_2Cl$; and substituted aryl wherein the aryl substituent is R_4, and

wherein

A is a linker selected from the group consisting of: CH_2; O; NH; S; SO; SO_2; NSO_2; $-OSO_2$; and $-C(NR_2)NR_3$;

m is selected from 0 and 1; and

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of: halo; $-OR_2$; $-SR_2$; $-SOR_2$; $-SO_2R_2$; $-SO_2NR_2R_3$; $-R_2OR_3$; $-R_2SR_3$; $-OCOR_2$; $-OCONR_2R_3$; $-NR_2COR_3$; $-NR_2CO_2R_3$; -CN; $-NO_2$; $-C(NR_2)NR_3$; $-CO_2R_2R_3$; $-CONR_2R_3$; $-C(O)R_2$; $-CH(OR_2)R_3$; $-CH_2(OR_2)$; $-A-(CH_2)_m-NR_2R_3$; NR_2R_3; aryl; aralkyl; heteroaryl; and heteroaralkyl; and

Ar_1, Ar_2, and the substituent G are optionally further substituted with one or more substituents selected independently from the group consisting of R_2 and R_4,

with the proviso that when ---- represents a double bond, then either of Ar_1 or Ar_2 is pyridyl and the compound is not:

3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(2-bromo-5-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-(4-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-5-(3-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-styryl-5-(4-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(3-Pyridyl)-5-(4-aminophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(3-Pyridyl)-5-(4-chlorophenoxymethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(4-chlorophenoxymethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(3-Pyridyl)-5-(2-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(3-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(4-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(2-ethyl-4-pyridyl)-5-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(2-ethyl-4-pyridyl)-5-(4- pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(2-ethyl-4-pyridyl)-5-(2-ethyl-4- pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(2-ethyl-4-pyridyl)-5-(4-chlorophenylmethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(4-aminophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(3-pyridyl)-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(3-pyridyl)-5-(4-aminophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-{2-[2-(N,N,dimethylamino)-ethyl]oxyphenyl}-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(4-pyridyl)-5-{2-[2-(N,N,dimethylamino)-ethyl]oxyphenyl}-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4,-triazole,
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-1,2,4,-triazole,
2-(2-pyridyl)-5-[3-(3-methoxy-4-cyclopentoxy)phenyl]-furan,
2-(3-pyridyl)-5-[3-(3-methoxy-4-cyclopentoxy)phenyl]-furan, or
2-(4-pyridyl)-5-[3-(3-methoxy-4-cyclopentoxyphenyl)]-furan.

2. A compound of claim 1 wherein ----- a represents double bond.

3. A compound of claim 2 wherein X is N, Y is N, and Z is O.

4. A compound of claim 3 wherein Ar_1 is optionally substituted pyridyl.

5. A compound of claim 4 wherein Ar_1 is optionally substituted 2-pyridyl.

6. A compound as defined in claim 3 wherein the substituent G is bonded to Ar_2 and not Ar_1.

7. A compound as defined in claim 6 wherein Ar_2 is selected from the group consisting of: 5 member aryl; 6 member aryl; 5-member heteroaryl; and 6 member heteroaryl.

8. A compound of claim 7 wherein Ar_2 is selected from the group consisting of: 6 member aryl and 6 member heteroaryl.

9. A compound of claim 8 wherein Ar_2 is selected from the group consisting of: pyridyl and phenyl, wherein Ar_2 is further substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of R_2 and R_4.

10. A compound of claim 9 wherein Ar_2 is phenyl.

11. A compound of claim 9 wherein Ar_2 is pyridyl.

12. A compound as defined in claim 9 wherein G is heteroaryl and wherein G is further substituted with one or more substitutents selected from the group consisting of R_2, R_3, and R_4.

13. A compound as defined in claim 12 wherein G is selected from the group consisting of: pyridyl; thiophene; pyrimidine; and furan and G is further substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of R_2 and R_4.

14. A compound as defined in claim 13 wherein G is selected from the group consisting of 2-pyridine, 3-pyridine and 4-pyridine, wherein G is further substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of R_2 and R_4.

15. A compound as defined in claim 14 wherein G is 3-pyridine.

16. A compound as defined in claim 13 wherein G is 3-thiophene.

17. A compound as defined in claim 13 wherein G is pyrimidine.

18. A compound as defined in claim 13 wherein G is furan.

19. A compound as defined in claim 9 wherein G is substituted aryl, wherein the substituent is R_4.

20. A compound as defined in claim 19 wherein G is substituted phenyl.

21. A compound as defined in claim 20 wherein G is substituted phenyl and R_4 is selected from the group consisting of halo, NR_2R_3, CN, and alkoxy.

22. A compound of claim 9 wherein G is $(CH_2)_m$-NR_2R_3 and *m* is selected from 0 and 1 and R_2 and R_3 may be independently selected from the group consisting of: H; alkyl; haloalkyl; alkyloxy; alkylamine; cycloalkyl; heterocycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; alkylaryl; alkylheteroaryl; haloaryl; alkyloxyaryl; alkenylaryl; alkenyloxyaryl; and haloheteroaryl.

23. A compound as defined in claim 22 wherein R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from H and C_{1-3} alkyl.

24. A compound of claim 9 wherein G is alkenyl.

25. A compound as defined in claim 24 wherein G is selected from the group consisting of:$-CH_2=CH_2$ and$-CH(CH_3)=CH_2$.

26. A compound as defined in claim 9 wherein G is alkynyl.

27. A compound of claim 9 wherein G is selected from the group consisting of A-alkenyl and A-alkynyl.

28. A compound as defined in claim 27 wherein A is O.

29. A compound as defined in claim 28 wherein G is –O-CH2CH=CH2.

30. A compound as defined in claim 9 wherein G is $-OCH_2CH(Cl)CH_2Cl$.

31. A compound as defined in claim 9 wherein G is selected from the group consisting of alkyloxy and A-alkyloxy.

32. A compound as defined in claim 31 wherein G is $-CH_2CH_2OH$.

33. A compound as defined in claim 9 wherein G is $-CH_2OC(O)H$.

34. A compound as defined in claim 9 wherein G is haloalkyl.

35. A compound as defined in claim 9 wherein G is cycloalkenyl.

36. A compound selected from the group consisting of compounds set forth in Table 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

37. A compound as defined in claim 36 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:
3-(5-Methyl-pyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-cyanophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B57),
3-(5-Cyano-pyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-cyanophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B58),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(5-bromo-2-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B62),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(5-bromo-2-fluorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B63),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(5-cyano-2-fluorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B64),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(5-bromopyrid-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B65),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(5-chloro-pyrid-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B66),
3-(5-Cyanopyrid-2-yl)-5-(5-bromo-pyrid-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B67),
3-(5-Fluoropyrid-2-yl)-5-(5-bromo-pyrid-3-yl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B68),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(2-thiomethoxy-pyrid-3-yl)]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B69),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(5-methylpyrid-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B70),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(5-methoxypyrid-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B72),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-cyano-5-methylphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B73),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-fluoro-5-bromophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B74),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-iodo-5-bromophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B75),
3-(5-Fluoro-2-pyridyl)-5-(3-fluoro-5-bromophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B76),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-iodo-5-(methylphenylester)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B78),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-methoxy-5-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B79),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-bromo-5-cyanophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B80),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(5-cyano-3-iodophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B81),
3-(5-Cyano-2-pyridyl)-5-(3-bromophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B59),

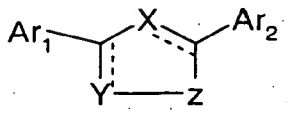
3-(5-Cyano-2-pyridyl)-5-(3-cyano-5-fluorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B60),
3-(5-Cyano-2-pyridyl)-5-(3-bromo-5-fluorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B61),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(5-cyano-2-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B97),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(2-cyano-5-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B98),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(5-cyano-pyrid-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B99),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-cyano-5-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B100),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(5-phenyl-pyrid-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B118),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-cyano-5-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B134),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-cyano-5-hydroxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B137),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-cyano-5-propoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B141),
2-(3-Cyanophenyl)-4-(pyridin-2-yl)-1,3-thiazole (B146),
2-(3-Bromo-5-iodophenyl)-4-pyridin-2-yl)-1,3-oxazole (B147),
2-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-iodophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole (B148),
2-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-cyanophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole (B149),
2-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-cyanophenyl)-1,3,4-triazole (B150),
3-(5-Chloropyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-cyano-5-fluorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B83),
3-(5-Chloropyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-cyano-5-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B84),
3-(5-Chloropyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-chloro-5-fluorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B85),
3-(5-Chloropyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-cyano-5-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B86),
3-(5-Fluoropyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-cyano-5-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B87),
3-(5-Fluoropyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-fluoro-5-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B88),
3-(5-Fluoropyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-cyano-5-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B89),
3-(5-Cyanopyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-cyano-5-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B90),
3-(5-Cyanopyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-fluoro-5-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B91)
3-(5-Cyanopyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-cyano-5-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B92),

3-(5-Fluoropyrid-2-yl)-5-(3,5-di-cyanophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B93),
3-(3-(4-Dimethylaminobutoxy)-pyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-cyano-5-fluorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B94),
3-(3-(5-Dimethylaminopentyloxy)-pyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-Cyano-5-fluorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B95), and
[3-(3-(6-Dimethylaminohexyloxy)-pyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-cyano-5-fluorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B96).

38. A compound as defined in claim 36 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-allyloxy-5-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B77),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-*N,N*-dimethylaminophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B82),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-cyano-5-(4-pyridyl)phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B101),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-[2-methoxy-5-(4-pyridyl)phenyl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B102),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-[2-fluoro-5-(4-pyridyl)phenyl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B103),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-fluoro-5-(4-pyridyl)phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B104),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-fluoro-5-(3-pyridyl)phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B105),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-[2-fluoro-5-(3-pyridyl)phenyl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B106),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-[2-methoxy-5-(3-pyridyl)phenyl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B107),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-cyano-5-(3-pyridyl)phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B108),
3-(5-Fluoro-2-pyridyl)-5-(3-fluoro-5-(3-pyridyl)phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B109),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-[5-(3-pyridyl-pyrid-3-yl)]-]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B111),
3-(5-Fluoropyrid-2-yl)]-5-[5-(3-pyridyl-pyrid-3-yl)]-]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B110),
3-(5-Cyanopyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-(pyrid-3-yl)phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B112),
3-(5-Cyanopyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-fluoro-5-(pyrid-3-yl)phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B113),

3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-cyano-5-(2-pyridyl)phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B124),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-[2-methoxy-5-(2-pyridyl)phenyl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B125),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-[2-fluoro-5-(2-pyridyl)phenyl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B126),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-[(3-(3-fuorophenyl)-5-fluorophenyl)]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B114),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-cyano-5-(3-thiophene)phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B115),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-[5-(3-thienyl)-pyrid-3-yl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B116),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-[5-(3-furyl)-pyrid-3-yl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B117),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-[5-(3-methoxyphenyl)-pyrid-3-yl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B119),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-cyano-5-(5-pyrimidyl)phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B120),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-cyano-5-(3-aminophenyl)phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B121),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-cyano-5-(3-fluorophenyl)phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B122),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-[5-(5-pyrimidyl)-pyrid-3-yl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B123),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-aminomethyl-5-cyanophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B127),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-[5[(2-propenyl)-pyrid-3-yl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B128),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-cyano-5-vinylphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B129),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-cyano-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B130),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-cyano-5-(2,3-dichloropropoxy)phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B131),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-allyloxy-5-carboxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B135),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-allyloxy-5-cyanophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B136),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(5-cyano-3-[3-hydroxypropyn-1-yl]phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B142),
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(2-N-methylaminophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B144), and
3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-[5-(3-*N*-benzyl-1,2,5,6,tetrahydropyridine)-pyrid-3-yl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B143).

39. A compound of Formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



I

wherein X, Y, and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of N, O, S, CH, and C(=O) wherein at least one of X, Y, and Z is a heteroatom;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of a heterocyclic or fused heterocyclic moiety containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, and S and an aromatic moiety selected from the group consisting of phenyl, benzyl, 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, fluorenyl, anthrenyl, indenyl, phenanthrenyl, and benzonaphthenyl,

wherein

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are optionally substituted with one or more substituents G,

wherein

G is selected from the group consisting of -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, -OR, $-SR_1$, -SOR, $-SO_2R_1$, $-SO_2NR_1R_2$, $-OCOR_1$, $-OCONR_1R_2$, $-NR_1COR_2$, $-NR_1CO_2R_2$, -CN, $-NO_2$, $-CO_2R_1$, $-CONR_1R_2$, $-C(O)R_1$, $-CH(OR_1)R_2$, $-CH_2(OR_1)$, $-R_1$, and $-A-(CH_2)_n-NR_1R_2$,

wherein

R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of -H, $-CF_3$, $-C_1$-C_{10} alkyl, -cycloalkyl, -alkyl-aryl, -alkyl-heteroaryl, -heterocycloalkyl, -aryl and where R_1 and R_2 may combine to form a ring, and A is defined as CH_2, O, NH, S, SO, SO_2 and *n* is 1, 2, 3, or 4.

with the proviso that when ---- represents a double bond, then either of Ar_1 or Ar_2 is pyridyl and the compound is not:

3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(2-bromo-5-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-(4-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-5-(3-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-styryl-5-(4-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(3-Pyridyl)-5-(4-aminophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(3-Pyridyl)-5-(4-chlorophenoxymethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(4-chlorophenoxymethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(3-Pyridyl)-5-(2-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(3-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(4-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-ethyl-4-pyridyl)-5-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-ethyl-4-pyridyl)-5-(4- pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-ethyl-4-pyridyl)-5-(2-ethyl-4- pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-ethyl-4-pyridyl)-5-(4-chlorophenylmethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(4-aminophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(3-pyridyl)-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(3-pyridyl)-5-(4-aminophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-pyridyl)-5-{2-[2-(N,N,dimethylamino)-ethyl]oxyphenyl}-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-pyridyl)-5-{2-[2-(N,N,dimethylamino)-ethyl]oxyphenyl}-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-pyridyl)-5-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,

3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4,-triazole,

3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-1,2,4,-triazole,

2-(2-pyridyl)-5-[3-(3-methoxy-4-cyclopentoxy)phenyl]-furan,

2-(3-pyridyl)-5-[3-(3-methoxy-4-cyclopentoxy)phenyl]-furan, or

2-(4-pyridyl)-5-[3-(3-methoxy-4-cyclopentoxyphenyl)]-furan.

40. A compound as defined in claim 39 wherein ----- represents a double bond.

41. The compound of claim 40, wherein X is N, Y is N, and Z is O.

42. The compound of claim 41 wherein Ar^1 is 2-pyridyl and Ar^2 is phenyl.

43 The compound of claim 42, wherein G is selected from the group consisting of $-OCH_3$, $-CF_3$, -Cl, -F, -Br, $-CH_3$, $-NO_2$, $-OCF_3$, $-SCH_3$, and -CN.

44. The compound of claim 42, wherein Ar^1 is 2-pyridyl and substituted with one or more G, wherein G is selected from the group consisting of $-OCH_3$, $-CF_3$, -F, and -Cl.

45. The compound of claim 41, wherein Ar^1 is 2-pyridyl and Ar^2 is 1-naphthyl.

46. The compound of claim 39, wherein X is N, Y is C, and Z is O.

47. The compound of claim 46, wherein Ar^1 is 2-pyridyl and is substituted with one or more G selected from the group consisting of -OCH_3, -CF_3, -F, and –Cl, and wherein Ar^2 is phenyl and is substituted with one or more G selected from the group consisting of -OCH_3, -CF_3, -Cl, -F, -Br, -CH_3, -NO_2, -OCF_3, -SCH_3, and -CN.

48. A compound selected from the group consisting of compounds set forth in Table 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, where the compound is not compound B4.

49. A compound as defined in claim 48, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B1),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B2),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(3-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B3),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B5),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B6),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(3-methylphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B9),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(1-naphthyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B10),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-[3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B11),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(2,3-difluorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B16),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B17),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B18),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(3-nitrophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B19),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(3-cyanophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B21),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(3-bromophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B22),

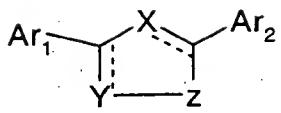
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol (B23),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B25),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(3-chloro-5-cyanophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B26),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(3-fluoro-5-cyanophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B27),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(3-chloro-5-fluorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B28),
3-(5-chloropyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-cyanophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B29)
3-(5-fluoropyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-cyanophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B30),
3-(5-fluoropyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-cyano-5-fluorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B31),
3-(3-fluoropyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-cyanophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B32),
3-(5-fluoropyrid-2-yl)-5-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B33),
3-(5-methoxypyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-cyanophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B34),
3-(2-quinolinyl)-5-(3-cyanophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B35),
3-(3-chloro-5-trifluoromethylpyrid-2-yl)-5-(3-cyanophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B36),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(5-chloro-2-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B37),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(2-chloro-5-methylthiophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B39),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(2-bromo-5-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B42),
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(2,5,6-trifluorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (B45),
2-(3-chlorophenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole (B50),
2-(3-bromophenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole (B51), and
2-(3-cyanophenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole (B52).

50. A compound selected from the group consisting of:
2-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(3-trifluorophenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(3-methylphenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(1-naphthyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,

2-(3-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(2,3-difluorophenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(3-chloro-5-cyanophenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(3-fluoro-5-cyanophenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(3-chloro-5-fluorophenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(3-cyanophenyl)-4-(5-chloropyrid-2-yl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(3-cyanophenyl)-4-(5-fluoropyrid-2-yl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(3-cyano-5-fluorophenyl)-4-(5-fluoropyrid-2-yl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(3-cyanophenyl)-4-(3-fluoropyrid-2-yl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-(5-fluoropyrid-2-yl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(3-cyanophenyl)-4-(5-methoxypyrid-2-yl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(3-cyanophenyl)-4-(2-quinolinyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(3-cyanophenyl)-4-(3-chloro-5-trifluoromethylpyrid-2-yl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(5-chloro-2-methoxyphenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(2-chloro-5-methylthiophenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(2-bromo-5-methoxyphenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(2,5,6-trifluorophenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-[3-chlorophenyl]-4-[pyridin-2-yl]-1,3-oxazole,
2-(2,5,6-trifluorophenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1,3-oxazole,
2-(3-nitrophenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl-1,3-oxazole, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

51. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically effective, non-toxic, amount of a compound of Formula I:

thereof:



I

wherein

---- represents a double or single bond;

X, Y, and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of: N; O; S; and CR_1 and at least one of X, Y, and Z is a heteroatom;

wherein

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of: H; alkyl; $-CF_3$; $-OR_2$; $-SR_2$; $-NR_2R_3$; $=O$; $=S$; $=NR_2$; and $=CR_2R_3$; and

wherein

R_2 and R_3 may be independently selected from the group consisting of: H; alkyl; haloalkyl; alkyloxy; alkylamine; cycloalkyl; heterocycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; alkylaryl; alkylheteroaryl; haloaryl; alkyloxyaryl; alkenylaryl; alkenyloxyaryl; and haloheteroaryl; and

Ar_1 and Ar_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of: aryl and heteroaryl and at least one of Ar_1 and Ar_2 is substituted with at least one substituent G;

wherein

G is selected from the group consisting of: haloalkyl; heteroaryl; cycloalkene; alkenyl; alkynyl; A-alkenyl; A-alkynyl; alkyloxy; A-alkyloxy; $-R_2OR_3$; $-R_2OC(O)R_3$; $(CH_2)_m-NR_2R_3$; $-OCH_2CH(Cl)CH_2Cl$; and substituted aryl wherein the aryl substituent is R_4, and

wherein

A is a linker selected from the group consisting of: CH_2; O; NH; S; SO; SO_2; NSO_2; $-OSO_2$; and $-C(NR_2)NR_3$;

m is selected from 0 and 1; and

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of: halo; $-OR_2$; $-SR_2$; $-SOR_2$; $-SO_2R_2$; $-SO_2NR_2R_3$; $-R_2OR_3$; $-R_2SR_3$; $-OCOR_2$; $-OCONR_2R_3$; $-NR_2COR_3$; $-NR_2CO_2R_3$; -CN; $-NO_2$; $-C(NR_2)NR_3$; $-CO_2R_2R_3$; $-CONR_2R_3$; $-C(O)R_2$; $-CH(OR_2)R_3$; $-CH_2(OR_2)$; $-A-(CH_2)_m-NR_2R_3$; NR_2R_3; aryl; aralkyl; heteroaryl; and heteroaralkyl; and

Ar_1, Ar_2, and the substituent G are optionally further substituted with one or more substituents selected independently from the group consisting of R_2 and R_4,

with the proviso that when ---- represents a double bond, then either of Ar_1 or Ar_2 is pyridyl and the compound is not:

3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-(4-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-5-(3-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-styryl-5-(4-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole, 3-(3-Pyridyl)-5-(4-aminophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(3-Pyridyl)-5-(4-chlorophenoxymethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(4-chlorophenoxymethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(3-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(4-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-ethyl-4-pyridyl)-5-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-ethyl-4-pyridyl)-5-(4- pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-ethyl-4-pyridyl)-5-(2-ethyl-4- pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-ethyl-4-pyridyl)-5-(4-chlorophenylmethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(4-aminophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(3-pyridyl)-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(3-pyridyl)-5-(4-aminophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-{2-[2-(N,N,dimethylamino)-ethyl]oxyphenyl}-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(4-pyridyl)-5-{2-[2-(N,N,dimethylamino)-ethyl]oxyphenyl}-1,2,4-oxadiazole2-(2-pyridyl)-5-[3-(3-methoxy-4-cyclopentoxy)phenyl]-furan,
2-(3-pyridyl)-5-[3-(3-methoxy-4-cyclopentoxy)phenyl]-furan, or
2-(4-pyridyl)-5-[3-(3-methoxy-4-cyclopentoxyphenyl)]-furan.

52. A method for treating a disease associated with Group I mGluR activation comprising the step of administering to a patient in need of such treatment a pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 51.

53. A method according to claim 52 wherein the disease is a disease associated with mGluR activation.

54. A method according to claim 53 wherein the disease is a neurological disease.

55. A method according to claim 53 wherein the disease is a psychiatric disease.

56. A method according to claim 53 wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of stroke, head trauma, anoxic injury, ischemic injury, hypoglycemia, epilepsy, pain, migraine headaches, Parkinson's disease, senile dementia, Huntington's Chorea, anxiety, and Alzheimer's disease.

57. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective, non-toxic, amount of a compound of claim 39 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

58. A method for treating a disease associated with Group I mGluR activation comprising the step of administering to a patient in need of such treatment a pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 57.

59. A method according to claim 58 wherein the disease is a disease associated with mGluR activation.

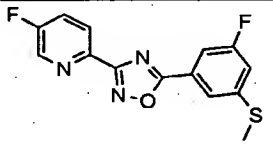
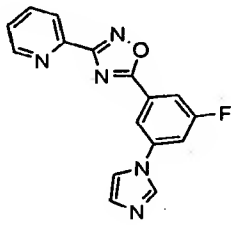
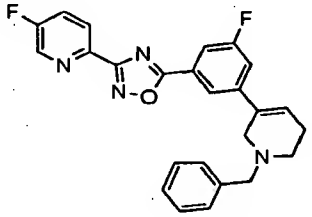
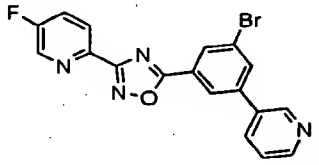
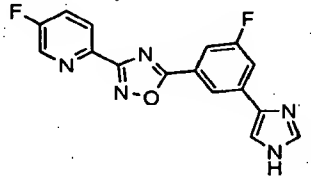
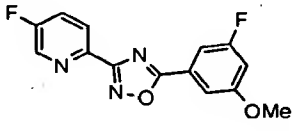
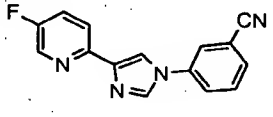
60. A method according to claim 59 wherein the disease is a neurological disease.

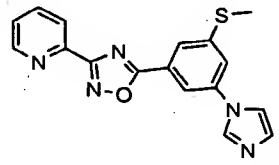
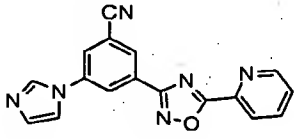
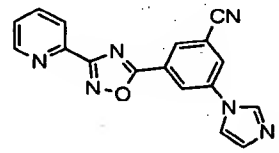
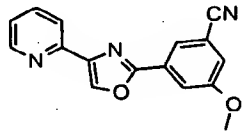
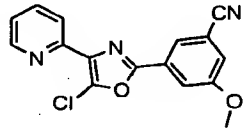
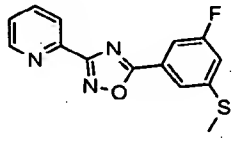
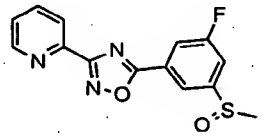
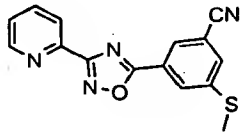
61. A method according to claim 59 wherein the disease is a psychiatric disease.

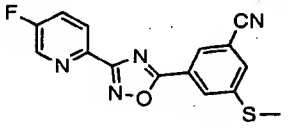
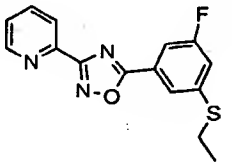
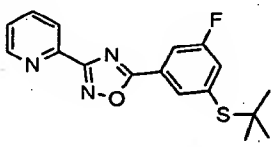
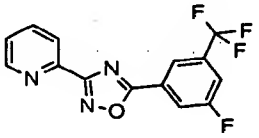
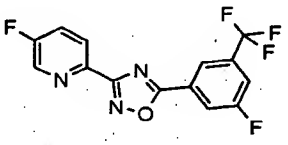
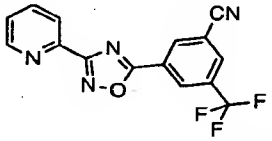
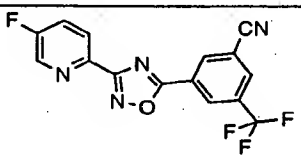
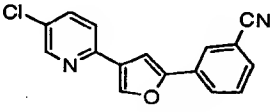
62. A method according to claim 59 wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of stroke, head trauma, anoxic injury, ischemic injury, hypoglycemia, epilepsy, pain, migraine headaches, Parkinson's disease, senile dementia, Huntington's Chorea, anxiety, and Alzheimer's disease.

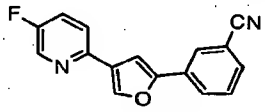
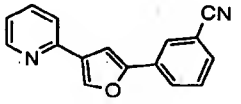
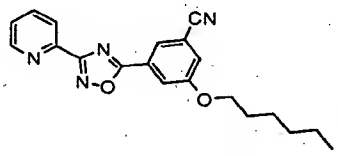
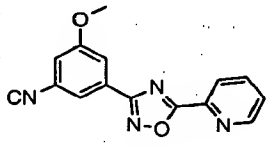
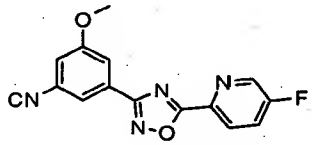
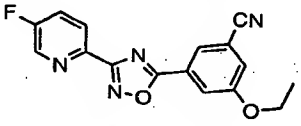
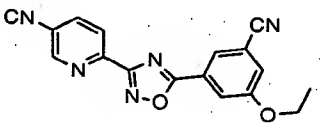
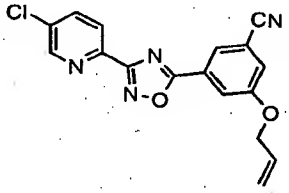
63. A method according to claim 59 wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of schizophrenia and depression.

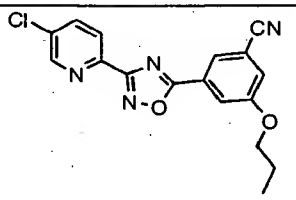
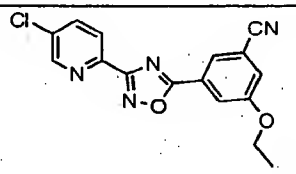
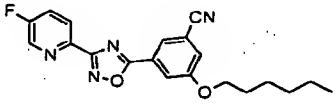
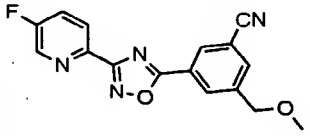
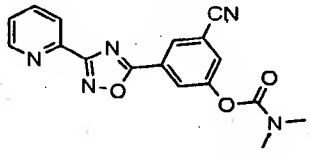
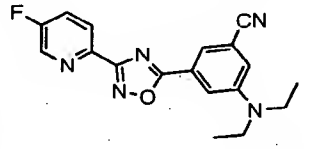
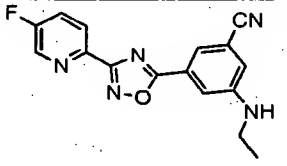
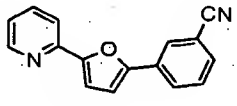
64. A compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, selected from the group consisting of compounds as set forth in the following table:

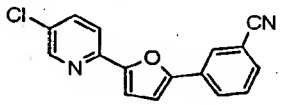
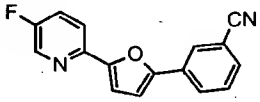
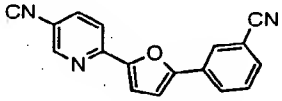
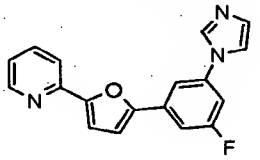
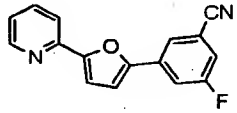
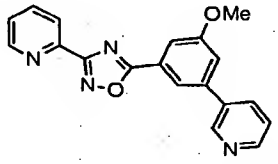
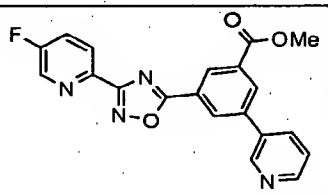
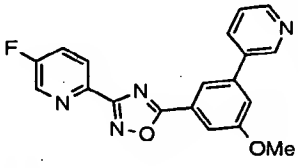
B153	
B154	
B250	
B212	
B251	
B213	
B252	

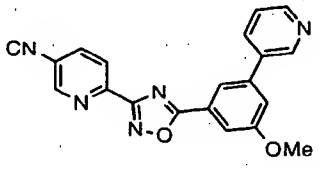
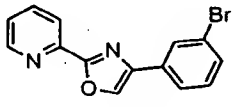
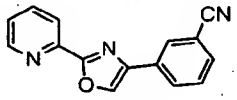
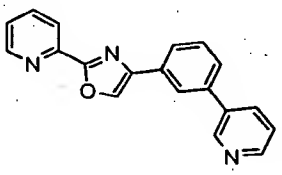
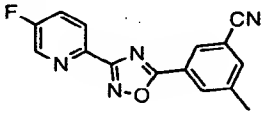
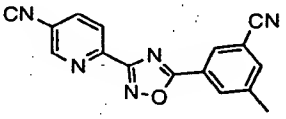
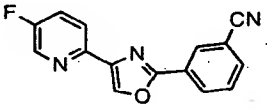
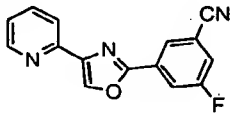
B253	
B254	
B255	
B269	
B272	
B216	
B217	
B214	

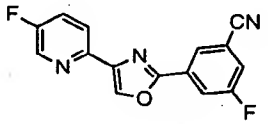
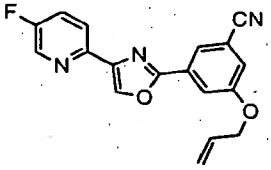
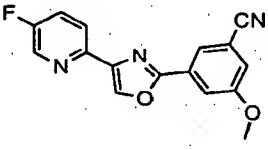
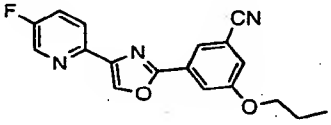
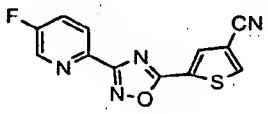
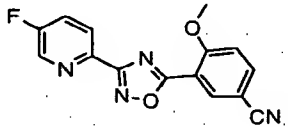
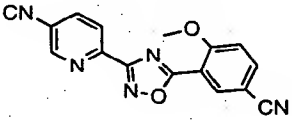
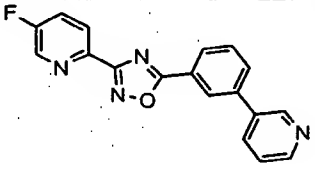
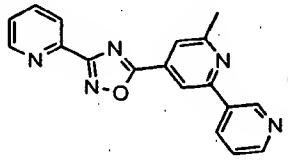
B215	
B218	
B219	
B155	
B156	
B223	
B224	
B258	

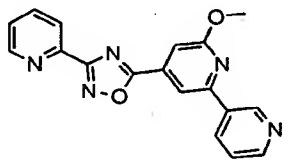
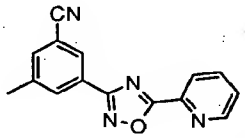
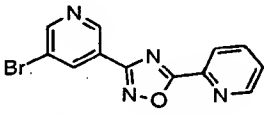
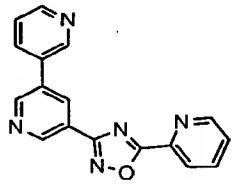
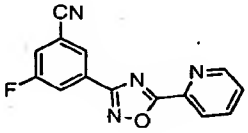
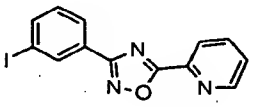
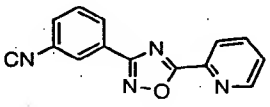
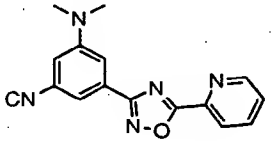
B257	
B256	
B244	
B167	
B168	
B169	
B170	
B171	

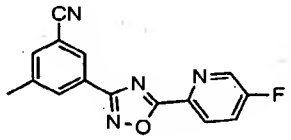
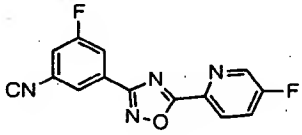
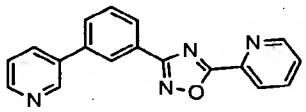
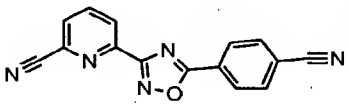
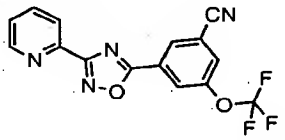
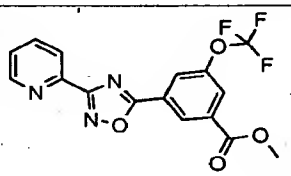
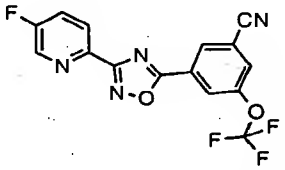
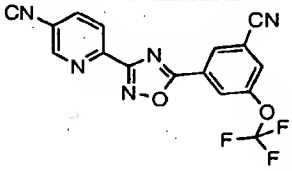
B172	
B173	
B174	
B175	
B245	
B246	
B247	
B260	

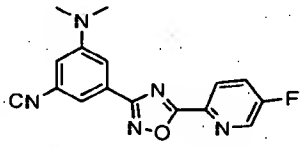
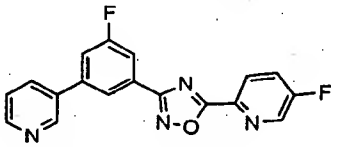
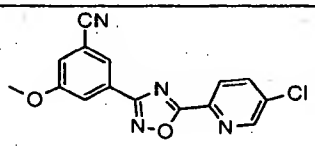
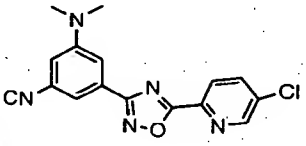
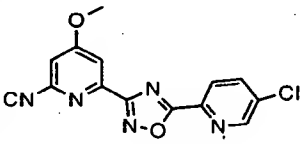
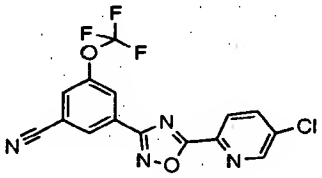
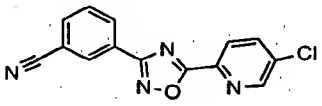
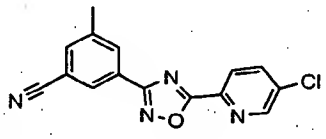
B261	
B263	
B262	
B259	
B264	
B274	
B275	
B276	

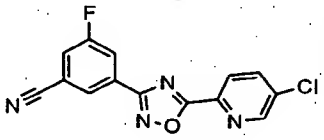
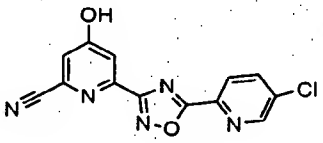
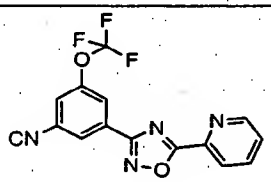
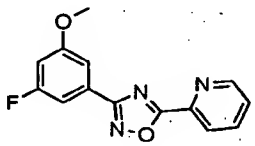
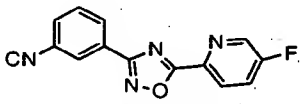
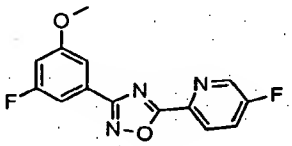
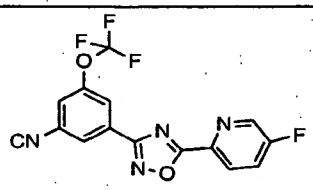
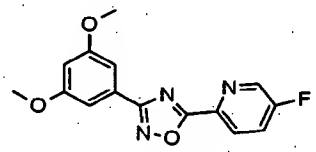
B277	
B278	
B279	
B280	
B220	
B221	
B265	
B267	

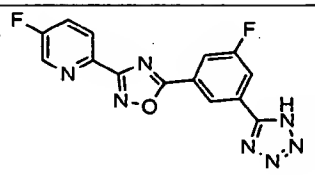
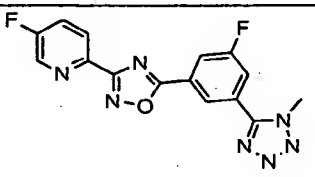
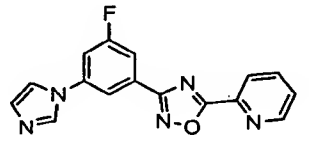
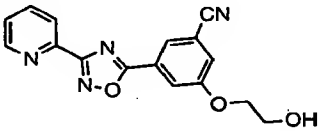
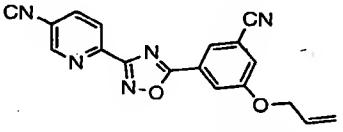
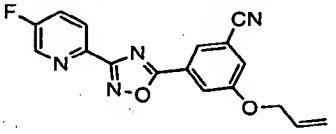
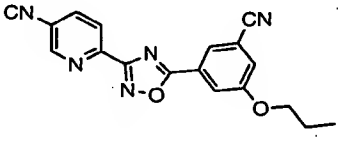
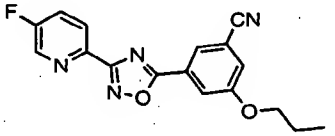
B266	
B268	
B270	
B271	
B222	
B176	
B177	
B225	
B226	

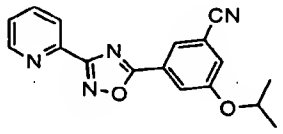
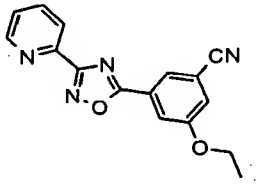
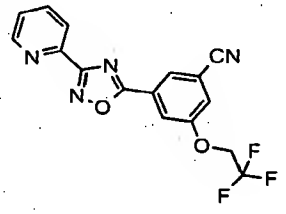
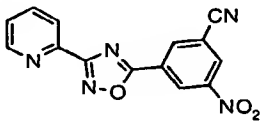
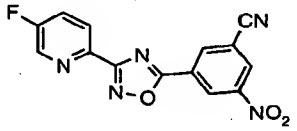
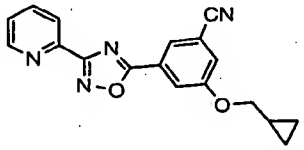
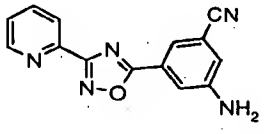
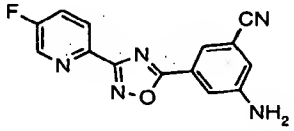
B227	
B181	
B182	
B228	
B183	
B184	
B186	
B187	

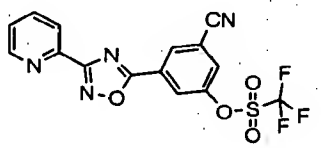
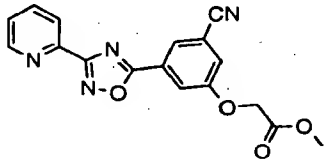
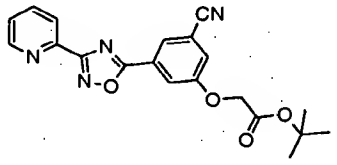
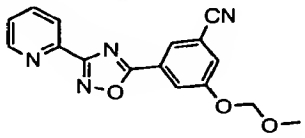
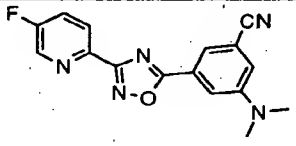
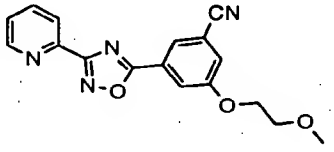
B188	
B189	
B229	
B190	
B191	
B192	
B193	
B194	

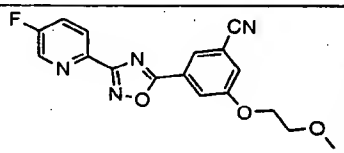
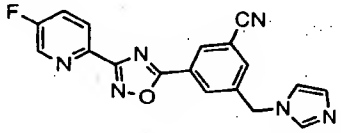
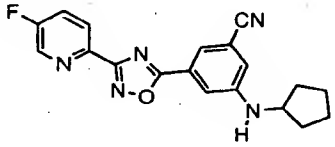
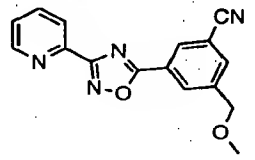
B195	
B230	
B197	
B196	
B198	
B200	
B201	
B202	

B203	
B199	
B204	
B205	
B206	
B208	
B207	
B209	

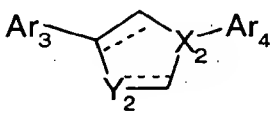
B248	
B249	
B210	
B231	
B157	
B158	
B159	
B160	

B232	
B233	
B234	
B161	
B162	
B235	
B236	
B237	

B238	
B239	
B240	
B241	
B163	
B242	

B164	
B165	
B243	
B166	

65. A compound of formula II, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



II

wherein

---- represents a double or single bond;

X_2 is selected from N and C, and Y_2 is selected from the group consisting of: N; O; S; and CR_5; and at least one of X_2 and Y_2 is a heteroatom;

wherein

R_5 is selected from the group consisting of: H; alkyl; $-CF_3$; $-OR_6$; $-SR_6$; NR_6R_7; $=O$; $=S$; $-=NR_6$; and $=CR_6R_7$; and

wherein

R_6 and R_7 may be independently selected from the group consisting of: H; alkyl; haloalkyl; alkyloxy; alkylamine; cycloalkyl; heterocycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; alkylaryl; alkylheteroaryl; haloaryl; alkyloxyaryl; alkenylaryl; alkenyloxyaryl; and haloheteroaryl; and

Ar_3 and Ar_4 are independently selected from the group consisting of aryl and heteroaryl and one, or both, of Ar_3 and Ar_4 is optionally substituted with one or more substituents G_2;

wherein

G_2 is selected from the group consisting of: haloalkyl; heteroaryl; cycloalkene; alkenyl; alkynyl; A-alkenyl; A-alkynyl; alkyloxy; A-alkyloxy; $-R_6OR_7$; $-R_6OC(O)R_7$; $(CH_2)_m-NR_6R_7$; $-OCH_2CH(Cl)CH_2Cl$; and substituted aryl wherein the aryl substituent is R_8;

wherein

A is a linker selected from the group consisting of: CH_2; O; NH; S; SO; SO_2; NSO_2; OSO_2; $-C(NR_6)NR_7$;

m is selected from 0 and 1; and

R_8 is selected from the group consisting of: halo; $-OR_6$; $-SR_6$; $-SOR_6$; $-SO_2R_6$; $-SO_2NR_6R_7$; $-R_6OR_7$; R_6SR_7; $-OCOR_6$; $-OCONR_6R_7$; $-NR_6COR_7$; $-NR_6CO_2R_7$; $-CN$; $-NO_2$; $-C(NR_6)NR_7$; $-CO_2R_6R_7$; $-CONR_6R_7$; $-C(O)R_6$; $-CH(OR_6)R_7$; $-CH_2(OR_6)$; -A-

$(CH_2)_m$-NR_6R_7; NR_6R_7; aryl; aralkyl; heteroaryl; and heteroaralkyl;and

Ar_3, Ar_4, and the substituent G_2 are optionally further substituted with one or more substituents selected independently from the group consisting of: R_6 and R_8.

66. A compound as defined in claim 65 wherein ----- represents a double bond.

67. A compound as defined in claim 66 wherein X_2 is N and Y_2 is N.

68. A compound as defined in claim 67 wherein Ar_3 and Ar_4 are independently selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted pyridyl and optionally substituted phenyl wherein Ar_3 and Ar_4 are optionally substituted with a substituent selected from G_2, R_6, and R_8.

69. A compound as defined in claim 68 wherein Ar_3 and Ar_4 are independently selected from the group consisting of 2-pyridyl, and optionally substituted phenyl wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of: aryl; heteroaryl; alkyl; halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, and alkoxy.

70. A compound selected from the group consisting of:
4-(3-Cyanophenyl)-1-(2-pyridyl)-1H-imidazole (B151) and
1-(3-Cyanophenyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)-1H-imidazole (B152).

71. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective, non-toxic, amount of a compound of claim 65 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

72. A method for treating a disease associated with Group I mGluR acctivation comprising the step of administering to a patient in need of such treatment a pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 71.

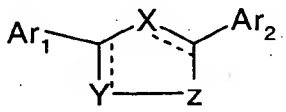
73. A method according to claim 72 wherein the disease is a disease associated with mGluR activation.

74. A method according to claim 73 wherein the disease is a neurological disease.

75. A method according to claim 73 wherein the disease is a psychiatric disease.

76. A method according to claim 73 wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of stroke, head trauma, anoxic injury, ischemic injury, hypoglycemia, epilepsy, pain, migraine headaches, Parkinson's disease, senile dementia, Huntington's Chorea, anxiety, and Alzheimer's disease.

77. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically effective, non-toxic, amount of a compound of Formula I:



I

wherein X, Y, and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of N, O, S, CH, and C(=O) wherein at least one of X, Y, and Z is a heteroatom;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of a heterocyclic or fused heterocyclic moiety containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, and S and an aromatic moiety selected from the group consisting of phenyl, benzyl, 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, fluorenyl, anthrenyl, indenyl, phenanthrenyl, and benzonaphthenyl,

wherein

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are optionally substituted with one or more substituents G,

wherein

G is selected from the group consisting of -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, -OR, $-SR_1$, -SOR, $-SO_2R_1$, $-SO_2NR_1R_2$, $-OCOR_1$, $-OCONR_1R_2$, $-NR_1COR_2$, $-NR_1CO_2R_2$, -CN, $-NO_2$, $-CO_2R_1$, $-CONR_1R_2$, $-C(O)R_1$, $-CH(OR_1)R_2$, $-CH_2(OR_1)$, $-R_1$, and $-A-(CH_2)_n-NR_1R_2$,

wherein

R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of -H, $-CF_3$, $-C_1$-C_{10} alkyl, -cycloalkyl, -alkyl-aryl, -alkyl-heteroaryl, -heterocycloalkyl, -aryl and where R_1 and R_2 may combine to form a ring, and A is defined as CH_2, O, NH, S, SO, SO_2 and *n* is 1, 2, 3, or 4.

with the proviso that when ---- represents a double bond, then either of Ar_1 or Ar_2 is pyridyl and the compound is not:

3-(2-Pyridyl)-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-(4-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-5-(3-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,

3-styryl-5-(4-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole, 3-(3-Pyridyl)-5-(4-aminophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(3-Pyridyl)-5-(4-chlorophenoxymethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(4-chlorophenoxymethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(3-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(4-Pyridyl)-5-(4-pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(2-ethyl-4-pyridyl)-5-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(2-ethyl-4-pyridyl)-5-(4- pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(2-ethyl-4-pyridyl)-5-(2-ethyl-4- pyridyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(2-ethyl-4-pyridyl)-5-(4-chlorophenylmethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-(4-aminophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(3-pyridyl)-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(3-pyridyl)-5-(4-aminophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(2-pyridyl)-5-{2-[2-(N,N,dimethylamino)-ethyl]oxyphenyl}-1,2,4-oxadiazole,
3-(4-pyridyl)-5-{2-[2-(N,N,dimethylamino)-ethyl]oxyphenyl}-1,2,4-oxadiazole2-(2-pyridyl)-5-[3-(3-methoxy-4-cyclopentoxy)phenyl]-furan,
2-(3-pyridyl)-5-[3-(3-methoxy-4-cyclopentoxy)phenyl]-furan, or
2-(4-pyridyl)-5-[3-(3-methoxy-4-cyclopentoxyphenyl)]-furan.

78. A method for treating a disease associated with Group I mGluR activation comprising the step of administering to a patient in need of such treatment a pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 77.

79. A method according to claim 78 wherein the disease is a disease associated with mGluR activation.

80. A method according to claim 79 wherein the disease is a neurological disease.

81. A method according to claim 79 wherein the disease is a psychiatric disease.

82. A method according to claim 79 wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of stroke, head trauma, anoxic injury, ischemic injury, hypoglycemia, epilepsy, pain, migraine headaches, Parkinson's disease, senile dementia, Huntington's Chorea, anxiety, and Alzheimer's disease.